



After School Matters



FAQ – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is The RAFT?

The RAFT is a not-for-profit organization, providing services to homeless and at-risk youth and communities throughout the Niagara Region. Services include a Youth Hostel, Drop-in Resource Centre, Youth Reconnect Program, Community Development Initiatives and After School Programs.

What is The RAFT's Mission?

The RAFT contributes to the welfare of the Niagara Community by helping at risk youth become independent and self-sufficient. By strengthening emotional and social well being and acting as a referral source, the RAFT reconnects youth to our community. We believe that working together, one step at a time, we can make a difference.

What is After School Matters?

The United Way of St. Catharines and District and the RAFT have partnered to deliver After School programming as part of the Neighbourhood Awakening Initiative. After School Matters is designed to mitigate the effects of low income on youth living in stressed neighbourhoods through free and accessible after school activities. The Program strives to increase the potential for healthy living, increase access to youth services and strengthen neighbourhoods by enriching the resources of the community.

What is the Neighbourhood Awakening Initiative?

Neighbourhood Awakening Initiative addresses issues of at-risk youth at the community level. The initiative focuses on creating positive community connections and fostering healthy lifestyles and growth among youth living in stressed communities.

Who is the target population?

After School Matters focuses on neighbourhood youth between the ages of 11 to 18 years of age. The programs are offered free of charge and participation is on a voluntary basis.

Who are the Program Partners?

The RAFT and the United Way have partnered with the Community to deliver this unique program. Program Partners include:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart
- District School Board of Niagara
- Niagara Regional Housing
- YMCA



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Where are the Programs Offered?

There are currently five programs offered: Preteen and Teen Programs at Manchester Avenue Family Community in the Haig Neighbourhood, a Teen Program at the Rykert Community House in Old Western Hill, a Teen Program (in Thorold) at the Nick Basciano Centre and a Teen Program at Beamsville Secondary School.

What Type of Programming is offered?

Neighbourhood-based programming offers free and accessible recreation, leisure, and educational opportunities to youth. Programs address physical activity, homework assistance, access to computers and special interest activities. Some of these events include:

- The creation of neighbourhood events to promote social inclusion
- Culture-specific lecture series for both youth and adults
- Study groups, neighbourhood walks, socials and outings
- Anti-tobacco and drug initiatives

In addition, healthy nutritional snacks are provided as part of each program.

How is the Program Funded?

After School Matters is funded by the United Way of St. Catharines and District with funding support from Canadian Tire Jump Start, Niagara Community Foundation and Niagara Regional Housing.

How do I obtain additional information about The RAFT and the After School Matters?

For more information about After School Matters please visit www.theraft.ca/After_School.html

For more information on how you can help please visit us at www.therafthelps.ca

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